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PROVIDER Update

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Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) Program

The department recently completed a competitive bidding process for the provision of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator (TENS) units, supplies, and services for all State Fund claims, both in and out-of-state. The new TENS contract has been awarded to Performance Modalities, Inc. (PMI). PMI has been the department's TENS vendor since 1988. The TENS contract went into effect on January 1, 2003, and will expire on December 31, 2006.

The department's TENS program and TENS authorization process described in Provider Bulletin 01-11 – *Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS)* will not change under the new contract. What has changed is the list of TENS units available for prescription and dispensing. Providers may now choose from the following list of TENS units:

MANUFACTURER	TENS UNIT
American Imex	Interspec-IF ¹
American Imex	MicroCare II
American Imex	Premier AP
Electromedical Products	Alpha-Stim 100
Empi	Dynex V
Empi	Eclipse +
Empi	Epix VT
Empi	Epix XL
Sparta	Spectrum Max-SD

¹ This unit is classified by the FDA as a true interferential current stimulator. Only the interferential units listed in the PMI contract with the department are eligible for rental and purchase on an at-home basis. See this Provider Update and Provider Bulletin 01-11 – *Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS)*. Interferential units must be obtained from PMI.

Provider Training Sessions

Upon request, PMI will schedule and conduct individual or group TENS training sessions for Washington providers. During the training sessions, PMI will, at a minimum, present information about the contracted TENS units, supplies, and services provided under the department's TENS contract. Hands-on training for all the TENS units in the contract will also be provided.

PMI can be contacted at: Performance Modalities, Inc. Phone: (253) 852-0078
25510 74th Avenue South (800) 999-TENS
Kent, WA 98032 FAX: (253) 852-0427

TENS Supplies

The department will pay for medically necessary supplies and batteries for the life of the TENS unit as long as it has authorized the injured worker's use of the TENS unit for an accepted condition. All supplies and batteries must be obtained from PMI.

TENS Unit Repair and Replacement

TENS units dispensed on or after January 1, 2003, have a five-year warranty. TENS units dispensed prior to that date may or may not still be under warranty. Regardless of warranty status, TENS unit repair is a covered service as long as the damage has not been caused by injured worker abuse, neglect, or misuse. The department and PMI, at their discretion, will decide when or if to repair a TENS unit or replace it with a TENS unit comparable to the original unit. In those cases where damage to the TENS unit is due to injured worker abuse, neglect, or misuse, TENS unit repair or replacement is the responsibility of the injured worker. Replacement of lost or stolen TENS units is also the responsibility of the injured worker.